Discontinuing PDS sugar to BPL families

2259. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of discontinuing PDS sugar to BPL families;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry could achieve a consensus among the sugarcane growers for a uniform formula for fixing the statutory minimum price;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to discontinue PDS sugar to BPL families.

(c) to (e) Government has referred the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugarcane pricing to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and they have been requested to recommend new sugarcane pricing policy. Government's policy in this regard would depend on the recommendations to be made by the CACP.

Allocation of foodgrains to Gujarat

2260. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government are allotting BPL quota of wheat and rice on the basis of 21.20 lakh BPL families instead of about 35 lakh BPL families in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intend to increase monthly quota of BPL wheat and rice as per the State's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution Systems (TPDS) is being made as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-1994), based on the Expert Group's methodology updated on the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As per these estimates the number of BPL families in Gujarat is 21.20 lakh. This basis of allocation is uniformly applied to all States/UTs without exception.

Procurement centres in MP

†2261. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Madhya Pradesh during this year and procurement made therefrom; and

(b) the quantity of wheat procured at minimum support price declared by the Central Government in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The FCI has opened 146 purchase centers in Madhya Pradesh in the current Rabi Marketing Season 2002-03 to procure wheat under price Support Scheme. A quantity of 0.75 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured by FCI at these centres. In respect of paddy, FCI has opened 43 procurement centres during the Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03. Procurement of paddy is yet to commence.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.